S A I N T L O U I S B I R D C L U B B U L L E T I N

Official Organ of The Saint Louis Bird Club
for the Promotion of
Bird Enjoyment, Bird Study and Bird Conservation

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ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB
NO MEETING IN MAY

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At its Annual Meeting, April 19, 1933, the St. Louis Bird Club held its annual election with the following results:

Dr. R. J. Terry, President
Mr. L. M. Dougan, 1st Vice-President
Mr. Geo. C. Mackay, 2d Vice- President
Miss Barbara Cousland, Rec.-Secretary
Mrs. A. F. Satterthwait, Cor.-Sec'tary
Mr. Byron Moser, Treasurer
Miss L. R. Ernst, Director
Dr. Donald Hetler, Director

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Valley Park, Mo., 7-8 a. m. Apr. 24, 1933. Drs. R. J. Terry and D. Hetler. Pied-billed Grebe, Eastern Green Heron Killdeer, Eastern Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Eastern Kingbird, , Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Maryland Yellowthroat. R. J. T.

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Pass Christian, Miss., near the Inn-by-the-Sea, March 20-25, 1933, Mr. R. L. Hobbs.

Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Mississippi Kite(?), Eastern Bob-white, American Coot, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Royal Tern, Black Skimmer, Dove, Hummingbird, Kingfisher (sp?), Flick-

(continued on page 23)

DR. HENRY VAN DYKE

As the migratory birds in winging their way northward were adding joyousness to our springtime, the passing of Dr. Henry Van Dyke took from us an enthusiastic and interesting lover of birds.

Born in Germantown, Pa., in 1852, growing up in Brooklyn, spending most of his life in New York and Princeton, with four years as Minister to Holland, a friend of Presidents, whom one of his friends described as "poet, critic, essayist, novelist, educator, lecturer, fisherman, pulpiteer," Henry Van Dyke lived a very full 80 years. He has been called "America's best-loved author," and often in mentally reviewing poets, essayists, critics and novelists of the past thirty years, I have thought that he stood at the top of American literature. His work has been characterized by "pure, clear-cut English," simple and beautiful diction and warm humanity. His books are companionable and friendly. The finest literary lecture I ever heard was Henry Van Dyke's lecture on Alfred Tennyson and his work.

We have had, and have, many valued ornithologists. We had in Louis Agassiz Fuertes the splendid combination of artist-ornithologist. In Dr. Henry Van Dyke we had a poet-ornithologist.

For many years I have admired greatly Dr. Van Dyke's writings, whether his charming essays, his stories, his religious writings, or his exquisite poems. His feeling toward younger writers was kindly sympathetic and I value greatly personal letters received from him. Many happy hours I have spent "birding" along some of his "Little Rivers," and have enjoyed keenly wading in the "Swiftwater" of

(continued on page 22)

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN
Published monthly except July, August and September, on the second Wednesday. Price $1.00 a year in advance, free to paid-up members of the Club. Subscription begins with the January number.

Officers

President, R. J. Terry
First Vice-President, L. M. Dougan
Second Vice-President, Geo. C. Mackay
Recording Secretary, Barbara Cousland
Corresponding Secretary,
Elizabeth Allen Satterthwait
Treasurer, Byron W. Moser
Director, Lillie R. Ernst
Director, Donald Hetler

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BULLETIN CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Accidents happen. The use of the word "Editorial"was presumptuous on my part. There is no such animal or bird as "Editor" in the parlance of the St. Louis Bird Club. A year ago our newly elected president, R. L. Hobbs, was authorized to appoint a Bulletin Committee to prepare a mimeographed bulletin for the members for certain months of the year. This Committee consisted of N. R. Barger, Chairman, Miss Barbara Cousland, Miss Clara Heising and Tom Kirksey. In the absence of Mr. Barger for the college year, Mr. Hobbs prevailed upon me to serve as chairman, in time to get out the November, 1932, number. Your substitute chairman applied a name to the bulletin instead of continuing the interrogation point. This name may or may not be approved. The proposal that the Club should own the lettergraph and incidental equipment for the initial cost not exceeding the cost of one year's service, and render the service gratuitously within the Club was approved. This service involves many hours of routine editing, typing in spaced columns, building up forms, cutting stencils and running the stencils through the machine. The finished copies are then delivered to Miss Cousland, who addresses and mails them.

The page was broken into two columns for greater ease in reading.

The mechanical plan of the Bulletin has certain leading features on the first and on the second page, with right-of-way on third page given Mr. Widmann for any contribution he sends.

The topic plan included treatment of the Starling, of the European Tree Sparrow and of the winter whereabouts of the Red-headed Woodpecker. The latter two projects have been handled since Mr. Barger's departure. Our method of procedure appears to be to "muddle through." At the March meeting I attempted to focus the attention of the members present upon the need of discussing Bulletin policies. This was deferred to be a prominent feature of the Annual Meeting, which was about to adjourn without a word of Bulletin discussion. When the chairman called attention to the omission of the order of the day, there were words of approval of the continuance of the Bulletin and permission was granted to use both sides of the page. Our new President asked your chairman to succeed himself, with emphatic assurance of strong support from the President's office. Other members to serve on the committee have not been named.

Not only did the announcement of the program of the Annual Meeting mention that "a discussion of policy, program and field of the Bulletin" was in order, but in the so-called "Editorial," the question was asked, "What special subjects will you choose for the ensuing year?"

How shall we construe the abject silence concerning the Bulletin? Do you read the table of contents? the announcement of the next meeting? the "Editorial?" I know some of you read the "Widmann Column" when you have the chance. If some of you had tangibly shown your appreciation of this column you would have found the column again occupied by Mr. Widmann, I am sure.

Were it not that I am convinced an official organ is important to the welfare of the St. Louis Bird Club, or in its failure, that a bird publication for the St. Louis region or for the state of Missouri should be established, I would feel that the lack of response to the call for constructive discussion was ample reason why I should abandon this chairmanship.

I want the Bulletin to carry the

best value we are able to put into it. I would like to have every member of the Club contribute something which would merit use in some or in every number each year. While I am chairman I shall give Mr. Widmann a column as often as he will use it. I would like to receive copy for each number from the President concerning the inter-relations of ornithological organizations and their legislative and explorative or research activities; from the Recording Secretary concerning the important features of the last meeting and increases in membership and in exchanges; from chairmen of working committees; and a steady flow of information from every member, from which supply of day-to-day information the committee may choose on its fitness, with full expectation that most will not be used. I would like to expand on the subject of nests, eggs and first plumages for June; on conservation of bird life for October; on autumn migrations and time-place influences for November; on economic studies of birds for December, on notable literature of 1933 for January; on bird-banding accomplishments for February; on methods of attracting birds for March; and spring migration for April.

Every member is invited to submit copy on these and on any other phases of ornithology, also personal notes concerning the ornithological activities of our members and of any other bird students on or before the last day of the month preceding the issue in which you believe your contribution might most appropriately appear. Then continue to contribute even if your contributions failed to appear!

It is my desire that the preparation of the Bulletin shall escape the calamity of being a one-man affair. To have each number as nearly up-to-the-minute as possible, we wait till the close of the last day of the month for "copy," then transcribe in 38-space columns the straight contribution or its mangled remains, chop the columns and paste in page form, then stencil and then do the inking. At no time has it been possible to have the other members of the committee present between the receipt of copy and the mailing of the Bulletin. A committee session just before the cutting of the stencils would be a substantial gain in cooperation in making a bigger and better Bulletin. A. F. Satterthwait, Chairman of Bulletin Committee.

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HENRY VAN DYKE (from page 20)

the Pocono country where he waded and fished for trout. If you have not read his charming bird poems, if you have never read "The Story of the Other Wise Man," "Days Off," "The Toiling of Felix" and "God of the Open Air," you are losers thereby. Turn for a moment to his delightful dedication in "Little Rivers," to the unique fish-basket in "Fisherman's Luck," and those of you who love birds enough to go afield before sunrise should revel in "The Angler's Reveille." Could you have described these more effectively?

"The Thistle-birds have changed
their dun
For yellow coats to match the sun."

* * *

"I think the Meadowlark's clear sound
Leaks upward slowly from the ground."

* * *

"And best of all, through twilight's
calm
The Hermit Thrush repeats his psalm."

* * *

Have you ever read a lovelier bird poem than Van Dyke's "Veery," or one more euphonious in rhythm?

"But far away, and far away,
the tawny Thrush is singing;
New England woods, at close of day,
with that clear chant are ringing;
And when my light of life is low,
and heart and flesh are weary,
I fain would hear, before I go,
the wood notes of the Veery."

E. A. S.

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CONCERNING NESTS

Reports from Mr. Hobbs: A nest of the Green Heron was built this spring in fork of a tall tree in Forest Park, St. Louis; A colony of Purple Martins is nesting on Wellesley near Waterman, in University City; A pair of Cardinals built their nest in a dwarf spruce

at corner of house, beginning the nest on April 16 and finishing on April 22, laying the first egg April 26 and the next two on the 27th and 28th, respectively.

Reports from Tom Kirksey: A Blue Jay nest contained two eggs on April 16; A Robin laid its first egg on Apr. 16 and the first egg in this nest hatched April 29; A Chipping Sparrow laid its first egg on April 25.

Report from Miss Gallagher and the Satterthwaits: Deer Creek - E. Bluebirds' nests in holes of two trees remote from human habitations, one in a woods, one in a onetime fencerow; A beautifully domed nest of Meadowlark in grass in wet waste land, and four eggs in nest, April 23, 1933.

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AN ALBINO COWBIRD

Mr. Hobbs reports that on April 5, 1933, he observed, in a small flock of normally colored E. Cowbirds, one Cowbird which was, with the exception of a few gray markings, a pure albino. This bird fed peacefully and flew normally with the others.

Mrs. John Magner reports seeing a generally white Cowbird on April 15, 1933, at her home on Lee Ave., Webster Groves. Marshall Magner saw the bird April 16 and again April 19. He says it was white all over, except that there was some brown on the wings and just a slight shade off of clean white on its back. It seems probable these three observers saw the same bird.

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(FIELD OBSERVATIONS, from page 20)
er, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Kingbird, Titmouse, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Kinglet (singing) (sp?), Shrike, Southern Parula Warbler, Meadowlark, Eastern Red-wing, Grackle, Cardinal, Towhee, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow. R. L. H.

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Between Dixon, Tenn., and Atlanta, Ga., January 4, 1933, Tom Kirksey reports seeing a flock of 2,000 Meadowlarks feeding; also, between Gainesville and Miami, Fla., "rafts" composed of thousands of ducks stretching for miles along the Indian River. He says he saw, while driving out the Tamiami Trail into the Everglades, many flocks of the Little Blue Heron, from 5 to 1, 000 each, nine containing 100 or more, and of these, two contained 1,000 each. He appraised this as the most abundant bird in the Everglades. "On the way home that evening, just after sunset," he says, "we had the rare experience of watching the Little Blue Herons going to roost; the remarkable phalanxes were flying parallel to the road, about a hundred yards off. The closely bunched companies were equally separated, one behind the other, and flapped by as if on parade, the young ones, in white plumage, as numerous as the adults. They reached as far as we could see behind and ahead of us, and I counted 16 of the phalanxes, about 200 yards apart." On January 15, on an all-dat drive in the Keys, reaching Lower Matacumba Key, he made this his record list for a single day: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Eastern Brown Pelican, Florida Cormorant, Man-'o-war Bird, Great White Heron, Ward's Heron, American Egret, Louisiana Heron, Little Blue Heron, Lesser Scaup Duck, American Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Harlan's (?) Hawk, Florida Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Eastern Pigeon Hawk, Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Cuban Sparrow Hawk, * Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Red-backed Sandpiper, Sanderling, Herring Gull, Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, White-crowned Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Mockingbird, Catbird, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow (?) Palm Warbler, Bahama Red-wing,* Florida Cardinal. (*Not found in A. O. U. List.) A.F.S

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Forest Park, St. Louis, April 15, 6. 30-11 a.m.; rainy and cold. Dr. D. Hetler.

Teal, Eastern Bob-white, E. Belted

(FIELD OBSERVATIONS from page 23)

Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, N. Downy Woodpecker, N. Blue Jay, E. Crow, E. Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, E. Hermit Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, E. Bluebird, E. Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, English Sparrow, E. Meadowlark, E. Red-wing, Bronzed Grackle, E. Cowbird, E. Cardinal, Red-eyed Towhee, E. Savannah Sparrow.

Deer Creek, St. Louis Co., April 15, 6.30-11 a.m.; rainy and cold. D.H.

Eastern Green Heron, E. Sparrow Hawk, American Woodcock, N. Hairy Woodpecker, E. Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, E. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, E. Chipping Sparrow, E. Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, E. Song Sparrow.

Deer Creek, April 16. D. Hetler.

Killdeer, Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, E. Purple Finch, E. Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow.

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Some first dates: Swift, April 9, A. F.&E.A.S.; Ruby-throated Hummingbird May 1, E.A.S.; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Apr.15, D. H.; Kingbird, Apr.24, R. J.T.; Crested Flycatcher, Apr.29, A.F.S.; House Wren, Apr.17, R.L.H.; Bewick Wren, Mar.22, E.A.S.; Catbird, Apr.30, R.L.H.; Wood Thrush, Apr.21, R.L.H.; Gray-cheeked Thrush, Apr.15, D.H.; Orchard Oriole, Apr.29, R.L.H.; Baltimore Oriole, Apr.27, A.F.S. (These records are from St. Louis, Valley Park, Ballwin, Wellston and points between.)

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BIRD-BANDING NOTES

J. Marshall Magner banded a Harris' Sparrow on April 22, 1933, identified it without trouble, showed it to Mr. Otto Widmann and to some local bird-banders, released it with the return of daylight, and had the bird in hand again April 24. A. F. S.

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Our choice banding records at 118 Waverly Place consist of three Hermit Thrushes (the first on April 8), for the month of April. The Biological Survey, through the courtesy of which office we bird-banders are operating, reported one Bronzed Grackle banded Sept. 26, 1931, killed at Hattiesburg, Miss., Feb. 19, 1933, and another, banded Oct. 18, 1930, captured alive at Forrest City, Ark., Mar. 9, 1933.

A. F. S.

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PERSONALS

Miss Cora Shoop, Steelville, Mo., a teacher without pay during the financial collapse of the School District, is a successful bird-bander, at Monett, Mo., for some years before coming to Steelville. Miss Shoop is a member of the St. Louis Bird Club and will be a contributor to the Bulletin. Mr. Magner and Mr. and Mrs. Satterthwait were guests of Miss Shoop April 29 and 30, and had the privilege of visiting her 180-acre bird and flower preserve in the hills a few miles south of Steelville. It is already very rich in nature content and will become richer with protection from fire and spoilsmen.

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Ralph B. Swain reports that he has been engaged to make a survey of the Bronzed Grackle nests on the campus at Ames. As the Grackle choose the tallest spruce trees, he goes a little higher in the same trees to see who's there. On May 3, 1933, he had the pleasure of seeing Harris's and Lark Sparrows. He hopes to reach Webster Groves on or about June 9.

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Mr. F. J. Friedli, teaching at the Bellville, Ill., Highschool, is interested in bird study and in the activities of the St. Louis Bird Club. He reads the Bulletin and will probably become a member. He attended the sessions of the Illinois Academy of Science in East St. Louis, May 5 and 6.

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One of our St. Louis members sent several copies of the Bulletin to a friend, W. H. Koons, 1208 S. Cheyenne Ave., Tulsa, Okla., and in appreciation, he sent your Corresponding Secretary a very pleasant letter with a five-year record of birds observed on thirty-one different dates from January to May.